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Grade 1

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GRADE 1

Curriculum Express for **Parents**

2012–2013

Alberta Education

The Alberta Education website contains information on learning from the early years to adulthood. This document, along with most Alberta Education documents, can be found on the website at http://education.alberta.ca.

Curriculum Express for Parents, along with most Alberta Education documents, are available for purchase from:

Learning Resources Centre
12360 – 142 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5L 4X9
Telephone: 780–427–2767
Toll-free: 310–0000 (inside Alberta)
Fax: 780–422–9750
Internet: http://lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html

Where can I get more information?

Citizenship and Career Pathways
Telephone: 780–427–2984
Fax: 780–422–0576
E-mail: curric.contact@education.gov.ab.ca

To be connected toll-free inside Alberta, dial 310–0000.

Learn more about your child's education by visiting *My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource* available at http://www.mychildslearning.alberta.ca.

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Schools in Alberta

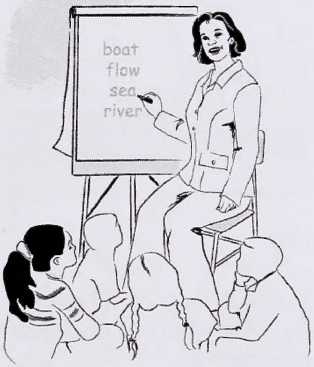
Students

Some students in our schools were born in Canada. Some students were born in other countries. Now they live in Canada.

Your children have the right to go to school in Alberta.

Teachers

A **homeroom teacher** teaches most subjects. Your child may have more than one teacher.



Some classes might have a **teaching assistant.**

Teaching assistants help the students and the teacher. Teaching assistants help in many ways.

Principals

Each school has a principal. Principals are the school leaders. They help the teachers. They also talk to parents.

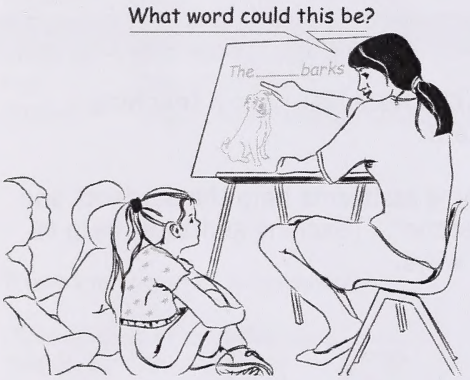
What does your child learn in Grade 1?

Each grade has a curriculum. Curriculum is what students learn in each subject area.

Teachers use the curriculum to help your child to learn.

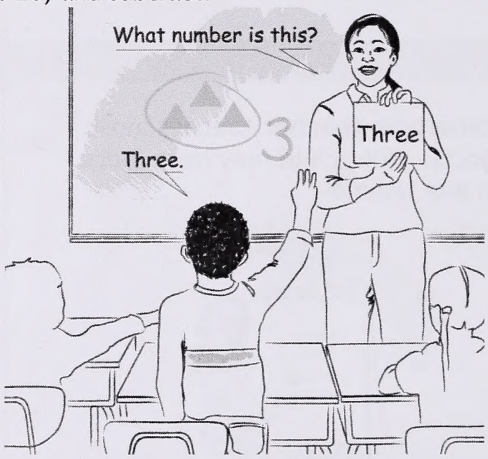
English Language Arts

Students learn to talk about their ideas and listen to others. They also begin to read and write.



Mathematics

Students show numbers to 20 using objects or pictures. They also start to add (with answers to 20) and subtract.



Science

Students learn about plants and animals. They also learn how to build things.

Social Studies

Students learn about their own home, school and community. They look at change in their families and community.

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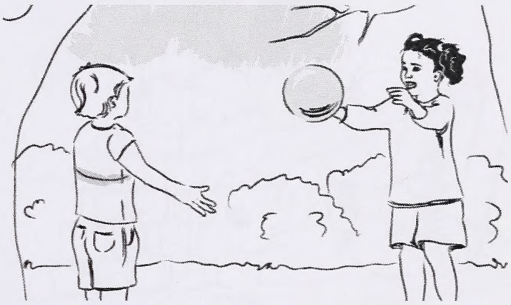
What does your child learn in Grade 1?

Health and Life Skills

Students learn to express their feelings. They also learn how staying clean helps them stay healthy.

Physical Education

Students do many things. For example, they learn to play fairly. They learn to get along with others.



Art

Students learn to create art and look at art.

Music

Students learn to make and enjoy music. These students listen and move to the music.

Daily Physical Activity

Students do 30 minutes of exercise a day. This establishes good healthy habits and builds skills that support active lifestyles.

How do Grade 1 students learn?

Students learn new things in different ways. They use computers, books and equipment. They learn by trying things and talking with others. Sometimes students work in groups. Sometimes the whole class works together.

These students are learning to experiment.

These students are using pictures to learn.

Students learn from their teachers.
Students learn from each other.
And they learn from you!

Students have different needs.

We are all different. We have different needs. Students have different needs, too.

- Some students need extra help with learning.
- Some students have special needs.
- Some students are English language learners. They need extra help with English.

Does your child need extra help?

Ask your child's teacher. He or she will be happy to talk to you.

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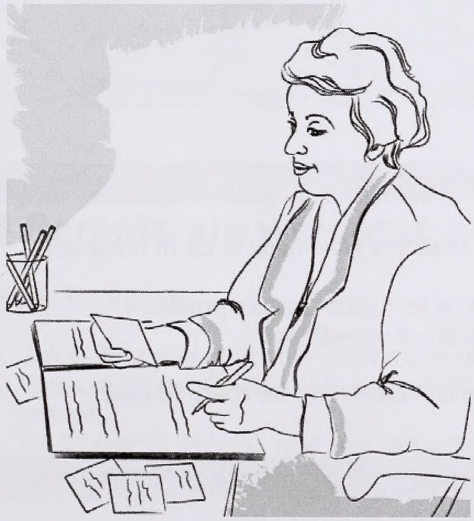
How do teachers assess student work?

How well are students doing? Teachers assess student work in many ways.

Teachers talk to students about class work every day.

Teachers ask students to talk about their work.



Teachers write notes about students. These notes remind the teacher how well the student is doing.

Teachers assess students every day. They do this by looking at samples of children's work like writing, artwork or pictures.

They help children to build a collection of their work.

Teachers also watch children working. They find out how and what they learn. In this way, they know your child's needs. This helps them plan classroom activities.

Sometimes teachers use a quiz or short test.

How can I help my child do well at school?

- Talk with your child. Ask about the day at school. Share ideas. Be positive.
- Sleep and healthy food help your child do well at school. Set a regular bed time. Make your child a healthy breakfast.
- Read with your child. Talk about what you read.
- Use speech at home as a model for your child's language skills.
- Help your child to solve everyday problems.
- Help your child to make decisions by offering choices.
- Include your child in everyday activities like cooking, shopping and cleaning. Help them to take responsibility for small tasks.
- Exercise and play are important to keep your child healthy. Provide opportunities for children to walk, stretch, hop, jump, run, dance or skip both inside and outside the house.
- Celebrate and encourage your child's efforts.

Homework in Grade 1

Sometimes your child might have homework to do. Teachers give many kinds of homework. For example:

- write a short story
- read a few pages
- do a few mathematics problems
- find out something.

Try to set a time and place for your child to do homework. Be there to help.

Do you speak another language at home?

- Talk to your child in your language.
- Read books in your language.
- Sing songs in your language.

These will help your child learn.

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How is my child doing in school? How can I find out?

Visit the school

Read the report cards

Go to meetings

Do you want to know more? Please talk to your child's teacher.

Parents are welcome at school!

If you have time ...

- Ask to be a helper at your child's school.
- Join the School Council. It is a group for parents.
- Go to special events. One special event is Family Evening.

Be part of your child's school!

School will be more fun for you and your child.

Information from school

The school sends you lots of information. For example:

- Progress reports.
- Information about school trips.
- Information about special days and events.

Questions?

Here are some questions that parents often ask.

- What is my child's timetable?
- Who watches the children at recess?
- Why does my child need money for school sometimes?
- What happens if my child breaks a school rule?
- What do I need to buy my child for school?

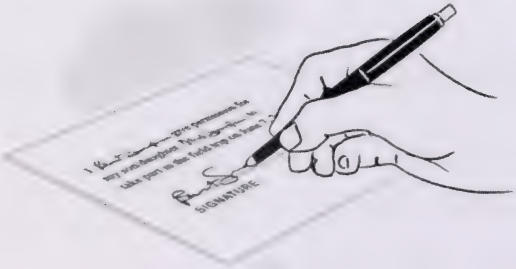
If you have a question, phone or visit the school.

What to do with information from school.

1. Read information that your child's school sends home. You can also ask somebody to help you.

2. Phone your child's school if you have a question.

3. Sometimes there is a place to sign your name. Sometimes you check a box ☐ yes or ☐ no.



4. Sometimes you must send the information back to school with your child.

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Information Regarding the *Alberta Human Rights Act*

Section 11.1 of the *Alberta Human Rights Act* requires boards (including charter schools) to provide parents with notice where "courses of study, educational programs or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises ... include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion, human sexuality or sexual orientation." Where a parent makes a written request, teachers shall exempt the student, without academic penalty, from such instruction, course of study, educational program or use of instructional material. These requirements do not apply to incidental or indirect references to religion, religious themes, human sexuality or sexual orientation. For more information, refer to the *Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12*.

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